

elastomer to the underside surface of the key top by means of a transparent adhesive.

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~~12~~. An illumination key, comprising:

a key operating portion made of transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer;

a transparent resin keytop mounted and bonded to the top of the key operating portion;

an operating shaft formed on a central portion of the underside of the keytop; and

a cavity formed on the underside of the keytop to reduce the thickness of the keytop.

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~~14~~. The illumination key of Claim ³~~13~~, wherein the transparent resin keytop is formed from a hard foaming resin.

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~~15~~. The illumination key of Claim ³~~13~~, wherein a lower portion of the operating shaft ~~of the operating shaft~~ of the transparent resin keytop is fitted into a concave portion formed in a central portion of the upper surface of the transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer key operating portion, with a lower portion of the said operating shaft and said concave portion being bonded by means of a transparent adhesive.

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~~16~~. The illumination key of Claim ³~~13~~, further comprising a protruding portion formed at a central portion of the upper surface of the transparent rubber or thermoplastic elastomer key operating portion and an insertion hole formed in the protruding portion, wherein the operating shaft of the transparent resin keytop is fitted into the insertion hole and bonded in place by means of a transparent adhesive.

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~~17~~. The illumination key of Claim ⁴~~14~~, wherein the transparent resin keytop is formed from a polyurethane